



STINGER SPORTS

VARSITY FOOTBALL: 1986-87 YEAR IN REVIEW

The 1986 Ontario- Quebec Intercollegiate Football Conference (O-QIFC) regular season saw the Concordia Stingers finish last in the six team circuit with a 1-6 record. Nonetheless, it was not all doom and gloom for head coach Skip Rochette's men of the grid.

Concordia's lone triumph came in the Shaughnessy Cup game against McGill, on a sunny October 11 afternoon at the Loyola campus. A crowd of more than 2,000 enthusiastic fans watched the local squad pull out a thrilling 23-21 victory.

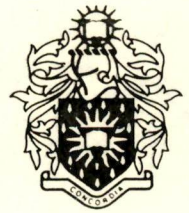
With only five top name starters graduating, Rochette has every reason to believe the Stingers will turn things around next season. Statistically, a number of Concordia performers posted impressive numbers in 1986.

Quarterback Steve Preston concluded his varsity career by completing 103 of 205 pass attempts for 1,488 yards and eight touchdowns. Don Leavitt, who served as Preston's backup and highly touted newcomer Ron Aboud, a standout in the pivot position for Vanier College the past two seasons, will battle it out for the vacant signal-caller's spot.

The man who wins the quarterback job will have plenty of experienced men capable of both carrying and catching the ball. Tight end Tony Diorio, wide receiver Mirco Buth and wide receiver/kicker Daniel Malats are among the finest hands in the O-QIFC. Diorio caught 28 passes for 423 yards and two touchdowns in 1986 while Buth, selected to the All-Conference team, snared 26 passes for 514 yards and four touchdowns. The versatile Malats caught 18 passes for 267 yards and scored one major. In the kicking department he punted for 2,586 yards, connected on four of 10 field goal attempts and was good on eight of nine convert attempts. .

In the backfield, Rochette hopes he can keep standout Joe D'Elia healthy. Despite missing three games because of a knee injury he rushed for 351 yards on 61 carries and scored four touchdowns. Knee problems kept Robert Bourque on the sidelines all season, but rookie Greg Cyr (224 yards) and three year veteran George Drimaropolous (121 yards) plugged the gaps admirably.

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(Football year in review cont'd)...

The individual highlights continued into the off-season. Offensive tackle Rocco Romano, who would later be selected in the opening round (fifth overall) of the Canadian Football League draft by Calgary, was named to the All-Canadian team. The hulking 265 pound Hamilton native was also named Stinger offensive lineman of the year.

Two other Stingers were CFL picks: offensive guard Mike Bertone by the Montreal Alouettes and defensive tackle Joe Fortune, grabbed by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. No other O-QIFC team had as many players taken.

In January Rochette held his own team awards banquet at the downtown Montreal TeeCee's Restaurant, owned by well known sportsman Tim Clahane. Linebacker Martin Ferdais, with 84 tackles to his credit, was named top defensive player; defensive back Stephane Chapados was named rookie-of-the-year while D'Elia captured the coaches' award.

During the winter Rochette took time out from his busy recruiting period to organize a high school football awards banquet and coaches clinic, attended by close to 100 minor football instructors from across Quebec and Eastern Ontario.

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